


Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505


Executive Director

2 April 1982

NOTE FOR: DDCI

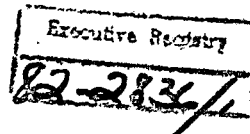
Bob:

 floated a proposal which would establish a 15 man staff under the NIOs for warning. Attached is my response.


John N. McMahon

Attachment: a/s





2 April 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

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FROM: John N. McMahon
Executive DirectorSUBJECT: NIC's 1 April Proposal to the DCI
on Warning

1. I fear that the NIC proposal is nothing more than the re-establishment of the Strategic Warning Staff under a different name. The proposed NIO staff with 15 or more people is just another layer in our intelligence exchange mechanism. I was convinced in January at the NFIB meeting and remain so today that what is needed is not another group of people to tell the individual agencies how to worry about warning, but to ensure that there is a network of communications which permits intelligence information to flow freely one to the other.

2. The proposal suggests there is a clear need in the CIA to imbue more of the production analyst with a sense of responsibility for warning. In times past there was no need to because the analyst and everyone else were content that the Strategic Warning Staff had that bag to carry. I agree that it is the responsibility of the individual analyst and we should give them the responsibility through the normal institutional organizations and not set up a warning staff which would "tell them how to go about it." No one should know more about what's going on in the country than the analysts themselves and we ought to hold their feet to the fire in their respective organizations to get that done. What we need to ensure is the mechanical linkage for causing an exchange to take place.

3. Hence, I non-concur in the proposal. A single NIO for warning could make sure the linkage is there and that it remains viable and healthy and the NIO could cast the skeptical eye when need be but let the analyst do the work and not try to leer over them with folks in the cheap seats.

4. Relative to the comments to [REDACTED] who is retired and seems to want to remain that way, I don't think we would do ourselves any justice by having an individual involved who doesn't want white knuckle jobs. If there is any white knuckle job in the Community it should be the NIO for Warning. I suggest we let [REDACTED] remain retired.

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John N. McMahon

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